

**ARIZONA PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**  
**Summary of Minutes**  
**June 24, 2003**

**Voting Members Present:**

David Felix, Assistant Director, representing Chairman Dennis A. Garrett, Director, AZ DPS  
Harry Beck, Chief, Mesa Fire Department  
David Bennett, Assistant Chief, representing Harold Hurtt, Chief, Phoenix Police Department  
Jan Hauk, President, Arizona Fire Districts Association  
Bill Washington, Captain, representing Richard Miranda, Chief, Tucson Police Dept.  
Roy Ryals, Director of EMS Services, Rural/Metro Ambulance  
Jim Zieler, Chief, St. Johns Police Department, AACOP Representative

**Voting Members Absent:**

Ray Allen, Assistant Fire Chief, City of Tucson Fire Department  
Hal Collett, Sheriff, Arizona Sheriffs Assoc.  
Michael Fusco, Chief, Arizona Fire Chiefs Association  
Frank Navarrete, Director, Division of Emergency Management/Homeland Security  
Danny Sharp, Chief, Oro Valley Police Department

**Other Attendees:**

Leif Anderson, Phoenix Fire Department  
Dale Bradshaw, Lieutenant, Marana Police Department  
Mike Branham, Executive Director, Arizona Criminal Justice Commission  
Dennis Busby, M/A-Com, Inc.  
Peter Decker, Indian Health Service  
Milan Dobras, Telecommunications Engineer, Arizona Department of Public Safety  
Barbara Dolan, Legislative Associate, League of Arizona Cities & Towns  
Carl Drescher, IT Administrator, City of Tucson  
Rich Evans, Operations Coordinator, Arizona State Park  
Calvin Hess, Administrative Manager, Pinal County Sheriffs Office  
Joe Hindman, Technology Director, Scottsdale Police Department  
Curt Knight, Telecommunications Bureau Manager, Arizona Department of Public Safety  
Blake McClelland, Commander, Phoenix Police Department  
Matt McClymonds, Chief Information Officer, Yuma County  
Jeff Miner, Communications Engineer, City of Phoenix  
Oscar Miranda, Lieutenant, Pima County Sheriff's Department  
Jim Omelia, Engineering Manager, Motorola  
Mark Openshaw, Assistant Fire Chief, Gila River Fire  
Stan Park, Arizona Department of Corrections  
Bill Phillips, Telecommunications Administrator, IT Department, City of Phoenix  
Steve Powles, Telecommunications Engineer, Arizona Department of Public Safety  
Paul Punske, Motorola, Inc.  
Georgene Ramming, CJSD Chief of Staff, Arizona Department of Public Safety  
Jay Ream, Assistant Director, Arizona State Parks  
Jeffery Resler, Commander/CIO, Arizona Department of Public Safety

Kevin Rogers, Support System Analyst, Northern Arizona University Police Department  
Scott Tillman, Telecommunications Engineer, Arizona Department of Public Safety  
William Vicente, Lieutenant, Hopi Resource Enforcement Services  
Nate White, Division Chief, Phoenix, Fire Department  
John Wilcox, EMS Manager, Air Evac Services, Inc.  
Paul Wilson, Captain, Pima County Sheriff's Department  
Jane Wixted, Hospital Preparedness Coordinator, Arizona Department of Health Services

### **Call to Order**

Colonel David Felix opened the meeting at 1:03 p. m. Roll call and introductions of the attendees took place.

### **Minutes**

A motion was made by Roy Ryals to accept the minutes of March 25, 2003, seconded by Harry Beck. Motion passed.

### **STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATES**

**FUNDING SUBCOMMITTEE** – David Felix reported the committee has been monitoring and responding to funding developments and will meet with legislators and the Governor's office to discuss Governance Structure. The committee met a couple weeks ago to discuss different options of possibly using multiple revenue sources.

**GRANTS AND FUNDING** - David Bennett addressed a letter received from the Phoenix Mayor's Office, concerning a grant/funding opportunity for \$66M in COPS money that includes 50 major metropolitan areas. It is multi-jurisdictional, and 74-79 agencies will be participating. David Bennett indicated that the City of Phoenix did not have a plan, but suggested contacting Blake McClelland to discuss ideas to enhance interoperability. He commented that Fire was well coordinated.

**CONGRESSIONAL CONTACTS** – David Felix stated that the PSWN staff have been the leaders in trying to educate states with interoperability issues. In April 2003, he visited with congressional staff to express concern about the Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs not following the congressional directive on the PSWN Program. He also used it as an opportunity to discuss what Arizona is doing. DPS received letters from legislators indicating they recognize the importance of expanding the interoperability of public safety entities as an integral component of homeland security and overall public safety. They have been in touch with the appropriate officials at the DOJ, urging them to provide the necessary funding to keep the PSWN program on track. They will do what they can to support them. The result appears that there was enough pressure put on key people that PSWN was funded through the end of this federal fiscal year (September 2003).

Roy Ryals, representing the Ambulance Association, and Jan Hauk, representing the Fire Districts and Chiefs, also took the opportunity to speak to congressional staff (on separate

occasions) about the Arizona project and the funding needs for interoperability. Mr. Ryals received a verbal commitment from them to see that the Homeland Security money that was flowing to Arizona would be available and some money earmarked for interoperability. Ms. Hauk felt something was accomplished. Senator McCain was interested in additional brochures on interoperability, for disbursement. This effort will continue to require the committee's presence, and to continue to talk to them on a regular basis.

**HOMELAND SECURITY** – A report was provided on the interoperability portion for Phoenix. Phoenix started the Homeland Defense Bureau (co-directed by Phoenix PD and Phoenix Fire). The staff involved has written a brief overview. It covers what they consider to be a strategic plan for what they need to do mobility, and regionally, and even reaching out further than that. The document is in draft form. It is the biggest part of Homeland Defense. Nate White will provide an electronic copy for distribution to the PSCC members.

**GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE** – Bill Washington reported on the document put together on "Governance Alternatives for a Statewide Interoperable Radio System." The basic recommendation is to initiate a Statewide Communications Board. David Felix complimented the Tucson staff for the document. It was well done. The document is appropriate for educating legislators of the committee's intent. Any recommendations should be directed to Kermit Miller to put on final draft. It was suggested that Kermit Miller discuss this document at the next PSCC meeting on September 23, for use as a starting point in this process.

**INTEROPERABILITY DEVELOPMENTS** – Curt Knight reported on the Phase I Project Schedule for MACRO Corporation. Copies of the schedule were made available. He indicated that DPS was not happy with MACRO's slow level of performance. Contact has been made with the different agencies and rooms have been scheduled, so MACRO will be responsible for complying with the schedule. Curt Knight will continue to make contact as far as participation and the timeframe, in locations where meetings are scheduled. He will need everyone's assistance in reaching out to the smaller communities and identifying "prime contacts." Likewise if you have experience in the tribal areas, rural fire, he will need your assistance finding these contacts.

The City of Mesa has agreed to host face to face meetings the week of August 4, to include other agencies in the area.

An introduction letter from MACRO will be sent out to the participants, in the early stages of the survey, to help understand what is going on. MACRO will open up a portion of their web site at the beginning of the survey. Everyone is expected to participate on-line with the survey material, prior to the one-on-one meetings so MACRO has a better understanding of the different agency needs; ahead of time. Passwords will be provided to primary contacts, along with a copy of an introduction letter and the surveys. Data will be collected, and your assistance in responding to these surveys is important. One-on-one meetings will be held with the 15 counties, the 13 largest cities, and ten state agencies. In addition, ten Town Hall meetings will

be held across the state (broken down quarterly), and will include federal contacts; tribal entities; fire and EMS. This information will be posted on the website when appropriate.

**INTEROPERABILITY EXERCISES** – Kevin Rogers reported on the Wild land Fire Drill Exercise. It helped understand there is a need to continue to work in this communication effort.

It was also suggested that an after action report be provided on the Aspen Fire, to see how they dealt with radio issues or interoperability. Paul Wilson will follow up.

**WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT** – Jeff Resler reported that in conjunction with the Governor's Plan, DPS has a new website that was redesigned and will be up July 2, 2003. There will be a link directly to the AZ PSCC. It will have information e.g., Charter, Membership, Strategic Plan, Minutes, etc. Everyone should be able to download the information for future meetings.

David Felix suggested adding two other links to the website:

1. The PSWN website because "Arizona" and the work they have done in Arizona is featured. PSWN has also done some detailed studies in the Indian Country on Interoperability.
2. A link to Homeland Security, to be able to obtain additional information.

**SIEC ACTIVITIES** – The PSCC is the SIEC for the State of Arizona Interoperability Committee.

### **Open Discussion / Comments**

David Felix attended two meetings last week and talked to Dr. Al Brandenstein and his staff regarding the ACU1000. They had a program where they transferred night vision equipment, and only asked for an evaluation of the equipment. There are a lot of logistical/administrative issues to work out. They are prepared to hire a Project Manager to focus on this fulltime. A concern about the failures of the ACU1000's was also discussed.

There is an interoperability study being done on a smaller scale to implement these regional interoperability solutions using homeland security money, and there is a larger detailed study being done by MACRO, so there will be an overlap of some questions. Your assistance to tie the two together, so they mesh to some logical progression from short term solutions to long term solutions is appreciated. Curt has a difficult job of coordinating these meetings, and David Felix asked that everyone be patient.

Joe Hindman commented that the FBI Advisory Policy Board has two proposals about wireless communications that they voted on. One proposal was to provide an extension to September 30, 2005, for having the wireless communications encrypted; no less than 128 bit encryption. The other proposal is that some agencies feel they do not communicate what would be considered criminal history data. If they were to show that they were not communicating criminal history data they want to be excluded from this rule. Both of these proposals got voted down. As the

committee is planning on how agencies are going to communicate with each other, it is important to keep in mind that agencies are going to be working to meet this encryption deadline, and if this effort is not coordinated closely, agencies will not be able to communicate or understand each other, due to the encryption. The way the policy is being applied now, the violation of not having encryption in place by September 30, 2005, could result in sanctions. Agencies are being asked to encrypt as soon as possible, and are being required to submit annual waiver request letters that should include their plans for having encryption in place before the sanctionable deadline. Only a few states are compliant at this time.

The next Region 3 (Arizona) 700 MHz Public Safety Planning Committee meeting is scheduled at 10:00 am on July 11, 2003. It will be held at the Sedona Fire Station. The Bylaws will be discussed.

Curt Knight made a PSCC presentation at the EMS Council Meeting.

#### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held at 1:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 23, 2003, at Arizona POST, 2643 E. University in Phoenix.

#### **Adjourn**

Meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

- Nate White committed to provide an electronic copy of the Strategic Plan for Phoenix PD, for distribution to the PSCC.
- Kermit Miller to discuss the “Governance Alternatives for a Statewide Interoperable Radio System” at the next PSCC meeting on September 23.
- DPS committed to provide a link directly to the AZ PSCC on the new DPS website.
- DPS committed to provide direct links to the “PSWN” and “Homeland Security” website, on the new DPS website at [www.dps.state.az.us](http://www.dps.state.az.us)